

The RCP collections and people with links to the transatlantic slave trade

Updated: March 2022

This list includes people with links to the transatlantic slave trade who feature in the RCP collections.

Name	Summary	Link to RCP collections	Source
Anne Margaret (dates unknown) and George Anson (1769–1849)	<p>Sir George Anson was a soldier and a Whig politician. When slavery was abolished in 1834, compensation was awarded to previous owners of enslaved people, based on the asset lists of their holdings. In 1837 Anson unsuccessfully lodged a joint counterclaim for compensation on Lears Plantation in St Michael, Barbados, where 319 enslaved people were registered (1834). Lears Plantation formed part of the marriage settlement of Sir Francis Ford (Bt) with Mary Anson, the sister of Sir George.</p> <p>Other co-claimants included the Earl of Lichfield (Sir George's nephew), Rt Hon Anne Margaret Viscountess Anson (Sir George's sister-in-law) and her father, Thomas William Coke of Holkham.</p> <p>Despite lodging this unsuccessful counterclaim, Sir George was prior a supporter of the government of William Grenville, 1806–1807, and supported the abolition of slavery.</p>	Writer of a letter in the archive collection.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146630687
Sara 'Saartjie' Baartman (1789–1815)	Baartman was a woman from the Khoikhoi tribe in South Africa. Her birth name is unknown. Saartjie is a Dutch Afrikaans diminutive form of Sarah.	Sitter in a print in the museum collection.	https://silo.tips/download/displaying-sara-baartman-the-hottentot-venus

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	<p>Baartman worked in domestic service before she was brought to London by William Dunlop, a Scottish ship's surgeon and Henrik Cesars, a businessman, in 1810. Whether she was coerced, or agreed to exhibiting herself in stage shows, was later debated in court.</p> <p>Her stage name in London and in Paris was the 'Hottentot Venus'; Hottentot is now considered an offensive name for the Khoi people. The name Venus, the Roman goddess of love and fertility, indicates a ridiculing and sexualisation of her body.</p> <p>In Paris, Baartman was bought and exhibited by an animal handler, S Reaux. Comparative anatomists, such as Georges Cuvier, were interested in studying and painting Baartman's body to support racist theories of evolution.</p> <p>Baartman died at the age of 26. Cuvier made a plaster cast of her body before dissecting it. He preserved her skeleton, brain and genitals, placing them in jars displayed at Paris's Museum of Man. Grotesque and without her consent, Baartman's remains were on public display until 1974 and were only repatriated and buried in 2002.</p>		<p>Rachel Holmes, <i>The Hottentot Venus: the Life and Death of Sarah Baartman</i> (2016)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRZMN6LqeCU</p>
William Hunter Baillie (1797–1894)	Baillie purchased the Ramble Estate in Jamaica in 1829. In the last listing of estate assets before the abolition of slavery, there were 135 enslaved people on the estate. When slavery was abolished in 1834, compensation was awarded to previous owners of enslaved people, based on	Sitter in paintings in the museum collection; writer of a letter in the archive collection.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/13916

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	the asset lists of their holdings. Baillie was awarded £2,451 compensation in 1835.	His father Matthew Baillie was a major donor to the library.	
Edward Nathaniel Bancroft (1772–1842)	Bancroft was a British military physician who worked in the West Indies, Portugal, the Mediterranean and Egypt, before setting up private practice in London. In 1811 he settled in Jamaica, where he worked as an army physician for about a year. When slavery was abolished in 1834, the British government awarded compensation to previous owners of enslaved people. Bancroft received £178 1s 6d compensation for 11 enslaved people in the parish of St Catherine and four enslaved people in the parish of Kingston.	RCP fellow. Entry in obituary series. Appears as a sitter in a print in the museum collection; writer of a letter in the archive collection. Author of books in the library.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/13238
Henry Barham senior (1670?–1726)	Barham lived in Jamaica. When he died in 1726 his estate included four enslaved people, including two children: two male and two female. Barham's son, also Henry, gained ownership of around 300 enslaved people through his second marriage.	Sitter in a print in the museum collection.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146635190
Jonathan Binns (1747–1812 or 1818)	Binns was an English chemist, doctor and Quaker based in Liverpool, a port which handled a significant proportion of the European slave trade. In 1783 Binns signed a petition requesting an end to the export of slaves by officers of the Royal African Company. This stance made him very unpopular in Liverpool and made him the subject of plots to kill him.	RCP licentiate. Entry in obituary series. Appears as sitter in a print in the museum collection. Author of a paper in the archive collection.	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_Binns

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William Rhodes Bernard I (1794–1868)	Bernard's father, David, was one of the owners of an estate called Eden in St James, Jamaica. After his father's death, Bernard inherited part ownership of the estate and received income from it. In the last listing of estate assets before the abolition of slavery, there were 195 enslaved people on the Eden estate. When slavery was abolished in 1834, compensation was awarded to previous owners of enslaved people, based on the asset lists of their holdings. Bernard was awarded £298 compensation in 1836.	RCP licentiate. Entry in obituary series.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/46393
Richard Bright (1789–1858)	The Bright family were based around Bristol, the UK's main port involved in the slave trade in the early 18th century. Bright's father, also named Richard Bright (1754–1840), inherited property and enslaved people in Trelawney, Westmoreland, Clarendon and St Andrews in Jamaica, and Bright's eldest brother, Henry Bright (1784–1869), collected compensation for an estate in St Elizabeth, Jamaica of £3,293. Bright's grandfather, also Henry Bright, was a 'merchant' involved in the slave trade.	Notable fellow of the RCP. Entry in obituary series. Appears in multiple paintings, sculpture, medals and prints in the museum collection. Personal papers in the archive collection. Author of books in the library.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/15207 https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/759123497 https://theconversation.com/a-fortune-built-on-slavery-the-bright-family-papers-and-their-journey-from-uk-to-melbourne-58423 https://digitised-collections.unimelb.edu.au/handle/11343/92255 https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/-759123497
Charles Edouard Brown-Sequard (1817–1894)	Brown-Sequard's family owned enslaved people during his childhood in Mauritius. They had been inherited by his	RCP fellow. Entry in obituary series. Personal papers in the	"Celestin, Louis-Cyril (2013) Charles Edouard Brown-

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	<p>mother, Charlotte Sequard (1788–1842) from her father, and worked in the Brown-Sequard family home. Brown-Sequard later went on to speak publicly against slavery when he lived in America in the 1850s.</p>	<p>archive collection. Author of books in and donor of books to the library.</p>	<p>Sequard: the biography of a tormented genius, p.15 https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=i7VeBAAAQBAJ&pg=PA15&lpg=PA15&dq=charlotte+sequard+mauritus+mother+of+charles+edouard&source=bl&ots=8l4vrTTi1z&sig=ACfU3U12rsoKWFsEUkooa_QwoWGz4_5v5Q&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwim34KznLvqAhWPYsAKHY7yBKgQ6AEwAXoECAkQAQ#v=onepage&q=slave&f=false https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146006031 https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146011768</p>
Alexander Bryson (1802–1869)	<p>Bryson was a ship's surgeon who worked on slaving ships for nine years. He later became director general of the Naval Medical Service.</p>	<p>RCP fellow. Entry in obituary series. Author of books in the library.</p>	<p>https://www.jstor.org/stable/218228?seq=1 https://www.rcpjournals.org/content/clinmedicine/19/1/22</p>
William Cadogan (1711–1797)	<p>Cadogan's second wife Anna was the widow of Samuel Spencer, owner of Tydixton Park estate and of enslaved people in St John, Jamaica. Cadogan and his wife were named as mortgagees in possession of the estate in 1761–2. A mortgagee in possession is a lender who has exercised its right to take control of a property due to non-payment</p>	<p>Notable RCP Fellow. Entry in obituary series. Appears in multiple paintings and prints in the museum collection.</p>	<p>https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146651241</p>

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	of the mortgage. The estate was sold sometime before Cadogan's death in 1797. The next recorded owner of the estate was Charles Grant in 1809. At that time, the list of estate assets included 47 enslaved people.	Author of books in the library.	
Peter Clare (1781–1851)	Clare was secretary of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester and campaigned for the abolition of slavery. He attended the first 'World Anti-Slavery Convention', run by the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, in London in 1840.	Appears as sitter in prints in the museum collection. Author of books in the library.	https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/personExtended/mp00890/peter-clare?tab=iconography https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:The_Anti-Slavery_Society_Convention,_1840_by_Benjamin_Robert_Haydon.jpg
Frederic(k) Cobb (1796–1883)	When slavery was abolished in 1834, the British government awarded compensation to previous owners of enslaved people. Cobb was awarded an unknown amount of compensation relating to the freeing of enslaved people on Friendsfield plantation in Tobago and on Fullarton Estate in Trinidad.	RCP fellow. Entry in obituary series. Personal papers in the archive collection. Author of a book in the library.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/29541
William Cockburn (1669–1739)	Possibly the father of Alexander Cockburn (1739–1815). Alexander Cockburn owned estates and enslaved people in Grenada. Unlikely, as both William's wives were called Mary and Alexander's mother was called Barbara! Also, no Berkshire connection listed in obituary entry for William.	RCP licentiate. Entry in obituary series. Appears as sitter in prints in the museum collection. Author of books in the library.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146649725

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Lady Anne Coke	In 1837 She unsuccessfully counterclaimed for part of £6,956 compensation for 315 enslaved people from the Lears plantation in Barbados as one of the trustees of her sister-in-law Mary Anson's marriage settlement with Francis Ford, presumably as trustee or executor of her husband, Thomas 1st Viscount Anson.	Writer of a letter in the archive collection.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146630687
Sir Alexander Crichton (1763–1856)	Crichton married Frances Dodwell in 1800. She was the granddaughter of Henry and Dulcibella Dodwell and co-heiress of the Morant Estate in Jamaica, which formed part of her marriage settlement. The list of assets for the Morant Estate in 1832 included 247 enslaved people. When slavery was abolished in 1834, compensation was awarded to previous owners of enslaved people, based on the asset lists of their holdings. Crichton made a claim for one-sixth of the compensation for the Morant Estate. The sum of £697 was paid to the trustees of the marriage settlement.	RCP licentiate. Entry in the obituary service. Writer of letters in the archive collection. Author of books in the library.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/1303380231
James Currie (1756–1805)	Currie worked in Virginia as a merchant from 1771 to 1776, after which he returned to Scotland and studied medicine, before setting up a practice in Liverpool, a port that handled a significant proportion of the European slave trade. He is known to have written several political letters and pamphlets advocating for the abolition of slavery.	Appears as sitter in a print in the museum collection. Author of books in the library.	https://www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/92523/james-currie-1756-1805-physician-and-man-letters https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Currie_(physician)
Edward Ellice	Merchant who enslaved many people at various locations. When slavery was abolished in 1834, compensation was awarded to previous owners of enslaved people, based on the asset lists of their holdings. Ellice was awarded	Writer of a letter in the archive collection.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/27776

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	<p>compensation for several hundred enslaved people, as a partner in Ellice Kinneer, which was mortgagee of the Richmond Estate in Grenada. He was also an executor of Alex McGregor in Tobago, and appeared in a number of claims as a former partner in Inglis Ellice, a major mortgagee firm and owner of enslaved people before its collapse in 1823.</p>		
<p>Walter Farquhar (1738–1819)</p>	<p>Likely the Walter Farquhar who owned the Retreat Estate in St Ann, Jamaica in the 1780s and 1790s, which included 57 enslaved people in 1792. Also the owner (mortgagee-in-possession) of the Great River Estate in Jamaica, a sugar estate with a cattle mill that would have been worked by enslaved people.</p>	<p>RCP licentiate. Entry in obituary series. Sitter in a print in the museum collection. Subject of a letter in the archive collection.</p>	<p>https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146648917</p>
<p>John Richard Farre (1775–1862)</p>	<p>John Richard Farre was the son in law and executor of William Crawley. Crawley was part-owner of the Caledonia Estate. In the last list of assets before the abolition of slavery, 33 enslaved people were listed. When slavery was abolished in 1834, compensation was awarded to previous owners of enslaved people, based on the asset lists of their holdings. As executor, John Farre was awarded £514 compensation in 1835 as part-owner of the estate.</p> <p>Farre's father, Richard John Farre, was a medical practitioner in Barbados who owned land and ten enslaved people on his death in 1800.</p>	<p>RCP fellow. Entry in obituary series. The Farre family appear in various prints, a painting, and archival documents within the collections. Author of books in the library.</p>	<p>https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/41049</p> <p>https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146654615</p>
<p>Arthur Farre (1811–1887) and Frederic</p>	<p>The Farres' grandfather, Richard John Farre, was a medical practitioner in Barbados who owned land and ten enslaved people on his death in 1800.</p>	<p>RCP fellows. Entries in obituary series</p>	<p>https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/41049</p>

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John Farre (1804–1886)	The Farres' father, John Richard Farre was the son-in-law and executor of William Crawley. Crawley was part-owner of the Caledonia Estate in Jamaica. In the last list of assets before the abolition of slavery, 33 enslaved people were listed. When slavery was abolished in 1834, compensation was awarded to previous owners of enslaved people, based on the asset lists of their holdings. As executor, John Farre was awarded £514 compensation in 1835 as part-owner of the estate.	The Farre family appear in various prints, paintings and archival documents within the collections. Both authors of books in and donors of books to the library.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146654615
Arthur Brooke Faulkner (1779–1845)	When slavery was abolished in 1834, compensation was awarded to previous owners of enslaved people, based on the asset lists of their holdings. Faulkner's wife Ann was left money by her sister Janet Grant, £4,000 of which was from a compensation claim relating to Colbeck's Estate in Jamaica. The Faulkners contested the claim of Messrs Thomas Daniel & Co to the compensation money but lost the case and so did not receive the money.	RCP fellow. Entry in obituary series. Author of books in the library.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146650941
Robert Ferguson (1799–1865)	Ferguson's wife, Cecilia, was the daughter of Joseph Julian and Elizabeth Labalmondriere, who owned a plantation in British Guiana. It is unclear if Cecilia (and through her, her husband) benefitted financially from this.	RCP fellow. Entry in obituary series. Appears in a miniature portrait painting in the museum collection. Personal papers in the archive collection. Author of books in the library.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/8036 https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146650001
John Fothergill (1712–1780)	In 1747 Frances Bladen left a share of a Nevis Estate, called Jorey's (later known as Fothergill's), to each of six friends	RCP fellow. Entry in obituary series.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146665365

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	and relatives. Some or all of them sold or mortgaged their share to a London merchant named James Buchanan. A one-third share was granted to John Fothergill in 1763. In 1772 John Fothergill sold his share of Jorey's, but it was mortgaged back to him later that year. In 1780, Fothergill, after the death of the mortgagee, appointed Charles Hutton on Nevis as his attorney to manage the estate. In 1791, John Fothergill, together with his aunt Ann Fothergill, sold Jorey's. It consisted of 320 acres together with 100 enslaved people.	Appears in a painting and prints in the museum collection. Personal papers in the archive collection. Author of books in the library.	
James Ford (1718–1795)	Ford inherited the Mountain River Estate in Jamaica from his brother Gilbert. Sugar and rum were produced on the estate, which was worked by enslaved people also owned by Ford. It is unclear if the estate remained in Ford's possession after 1769. His will does not mention property in Jamaica, although he left all his property outside of Great Britain to his son Richard.	RCP licentiate. Entry in obituary series.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146659309
James Grainger (1721–1766)	Grainger first travelled to the West Indies in 1759 as a companion to a former patient. While there he married Miss Burt, whose uncle Daniel Mathew owned estates and enslaved people in St Kitts, Tobago and Antigua. Grainger managed Mathew's St Kitts' estates, as well as practising as a physician. Although he never owned an estate, Grainger is reported to have bought enslaved people.	RCP licentiate. Entry in obituary series. Author of a book in the library.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146661167 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Sugar_Cane
Thomas Guy (1644–1724)	Guy was a British bookseller, investor and MP, known for founding Guy's Hospital in London. He made significant money from his investment in the South Sea Company,	May have been an RCP fellow.	https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/11800

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	<p>which was a partnership between the government and private business to help consolidate and reduce the cost of the British national debt. To generate income, in 1713 the company was granted a monopoly to supply enslaved African people to the islands of the 'South Seas' (Pacific Ocean) and South America.</p>		<p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Guy</p>
Henry Halford (1766–1844)	<p>Halford married (Elizabeth) Barbara St John in 1795. Her grandfather was joint owner of a large number of estates and enslaved people in Grenada and she inherited a legacy from her father which came from the profit of those estates.</p>	<p>RCP president. Entry in obituary series. Appears in various paintings, prints, sculpture in the museum collection. Personal papers in the archive collection. Author of books in and donor of books to the library.</p>	<p>https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/-1249307988</p>
John Coakley Lettsom (1744–1815)	<p>Born in Tortola, Lettsom was educated in England from the age of six, and later studied medicine in London and Leiden. In October 1767, following his father's death, he returned to Tortola to the plantation his father had bequeathed him, where he was then responsible for the manumission of the enslaved people working there.</p> <p>Lettsom's son Pickering married Ruth Georges shortly before his death in 1808. Ruth's grandfather had left her a slave-derived fortune. When she died shortly after Pickering, Ruth left her fortune and estate to her father-in-law, Lettsom, rather than her own children. The bequest</p>	<p>RCP licentiate. Entry in obituary series. Appears in various prints and a painting in the museum collection. Author of books in the library.</p>	<p>https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146649667</p>

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	was contested and it was only shortly before Lettsom's own death in 1815 that the court ruled in his favour. The estate, which included over 500 enslaved people, was sold at auction in 1825.		
James Manby Gully (1808–1883)	Gully was a Victorian hydrotherapist who was born in Kingston Jamaica. His father Daniel Gully was a coffee planter. When slavery was abolished in 1834, compensation was awarded to previous owners of enslaved people. Gully received £286 17s 4d in compensation from the Middleton Estate in St George, Jamaica, one-third of the total compensation awarded for that estate.	Sitter in prints in the museum collection.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/46244 https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2958
Alexander Morison (1779–1866)	Morison married his cousin, Mary Cushnie, while still a student. Her father was the owner of an estate, Windsor Castle, and of enslaved people in Jamaica. She inherited a part-share in that estate. The estate was sold circa 1822, at which time the list of assets included 176 enslaved people. Mary Morison's fortune funded Alexander Morison's early career and life, including the building of Larchgrove, a country house. Larchgrove was subsequently used to found the Morison lectureship, managed by the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.	RCP fellow. Entry in obituary series. Appears in the archive collection as the author of a report. Author of books in the library.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146647349
Charles Murchison (1830–1879)	Murchison's father Alexander Murchison was a magistrate in Vere, Jamaica, and the owner of estates and of enslaved people. Alexander Murchison owned two estates, Grimett and Springfield, and was the trustee for the Vere Free School. When slavery was abolished in 1834, compensation was awarded to previous owners of enslaved people,	RCP fellow. Entry in obituary series. Sitter in various portrait drawings and prints in the museum collection; Personal papers in the	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/21804

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	<p>based on the asset lists of their holdings. Alexander Murchison was awarded £1,645 compensation for 87 enslaved people on the Grimett Estate, £1,996 compensation for 104 enslaved people on the Springfield estate and £88 compensation for four enslaved people as trustee of the Vere Free School.</p>	<p>archive collection. Author of books in the library.</p>	
<p>William Murray (1705–1793)</p>	<p>Murray was a British barrister, politician and judge who became Lord Chief Justice in 1756. He is known for reforming the way English law and the courts worked, and is best known for his judgment in the case of enslaved man James Somersett in 1772, in which Murray ruled that an enslaved person on English soil could not to be forcibly removed from the country and sent to Jamaica for sale. Although it is now considered to have been as a significant step towards recognising the illegality of slavery in Britain, this case focused on legal technicalities rather than humanitarian principles, and did not make slavery illegal in Britain (although there was much confusion about this at the time) as it only confirmed that it was illegal to transport a slave out of England and Wales against their will.</p> <p>Murray's mixed-race great-niece, Dido Elizabeth Belle (1761–1804), lived with and was educated by Murray and his wife. Belle was the daughter of Murray's nephew Sir John Lindsay, a British career naval officer, and of Maria Belle, an enslaved African woman, in the British West Indies. Dido Belle's legal status while Murray was alive is uncertain. To some extent she was treated and brought up as a member of the Murray family, but she was legally still</p>	<p>Sitter in a print in the museum collection.</p>	<p>https://www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/3185/william-murray-1st-earl-mansfield-1705-1793-lord-chief-justice</p> <p>https://www.britannica.com/biography/William-Murray-1st-Earl-of-Mansfield</p> <p>https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/histories/women-in-history/dido-belle/</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Murray,_1st_Earl_of_Mansfield</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dido_Elizabeth_Belle</p>

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	enslaved until Murray officially confirmed or conferred Belle's freedom as an enslaved person in his household in his will, written in 1783 and published in 1793.		
Philip Lovell Phillips (1805/6–1869)	Phillips' mother, Elizabeth, inherited the Durants Estate in Barbados from her father. In 1829 Phillips became the owner of the estate. The last list of assets before the abolition of slavery included 206 enslaved people. When slavery was abolished in 1834, compensation was awarded to previous owners of enslaved people, based on the asset lists of their holdings. Phillips was awarded £4,105 compensation for the Durants Estate in 1836. He also registered an unsuccessful claim for compensation for the Henrietta (Leguan) Estate on British Guiana (Guyana) on behalf of a Phillip Lovell (deceased), presumably a relative.	RCP fellow. Entry in obituary series. Author of a book in the library.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2958
Rivers, Horace William Pitt, 3rd Baron	Rivers was the owner of three plantations in Jamaica: Eaton, Mount Carmel, and Shrewsbury. In the year of his death, 1831, among the assets listed for these estates were 876 enslaved people. He inherited Eaton and Shrewsbury from his father, Peter Beckford of Stepleton, who also owned Bull Head Pen, Two Mile Wood Pen, and Windsor – all slave owning estates in Mestmoreland, Jamaica. When slavery was abolished in 1834, compensation was awarded to previous owners of enslaved people, based on the asset lists of their holdings. Rivers' son, George Pitt-Rivers, was awarded £9,461	Writer of a letter in the archive collection	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146634112 https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146634114 https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/23192

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	compensation for 442 enslaved people on the Eaton and Shrewsbury estates.		
Benjamin Rush (1745/6–1813)	Rush was an American doctor who spoke out against the slave trade, particularly in his 1773 pamphlet <i>An Address to the Inhabitants of the British Settlements in America, upon Slave-Keeping</i> . Rush did, however, purchase an enslaved man, William Grubber, in 1776, and in 1792 presented a paper at the American Philosophical Society which argued inaccurately that the ‘color’ and ‘figure’ of Black people were derived from a form of leprosy and were therefore something that could be cured to turn people White.	Sitter in prints in the museum collection, which also holds two ‘Rush’ type scarificators named after him. Author of books in the library.	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Rush https://www.britannica.com/biography/Benjamin-Rush
Charles Scarborough (1614–1693)	Charles Scarborough’s father, Captain Edmund Scarborough (d.1635) emigrated to Virginia in 1621. Charles Scarborough’s brother (Colonel) Edmund junior also emigrated and became one of the region’s largest owners of enslaved people. It is unclear if Charles emigrated with the family and then returned, or if he remained in England to complete his education.	RCP fellow. Entry in obituary series. Sitter in various portrait paintings and prints in the museum collection. Author of books in the library.	https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1660-1690/member/scarburgh-sir-charles-1615-94 ‘Building "the machine": The development of slavery and slave society in early colonial Virginia’. https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/235413538.pdf http://www.jamestowne.org/blog/may-23rd-2019
James Marion Sims (1813–1883)	Sims was an American physician in the field of surgery. In 1876 he became president of the American Medical	Sitter in portrait prints in the museum.	https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/retropolis/wp/2017/08/29/a-surgeon-experimented-

Name	Summary	Link to RCP collections	Source
	<p>Association and president of the American Gynecological Society in 1880.</p> <p>Sims was a slave owner and doctor in Alabama and wanted to find a cure for vesicovaginal fistula – a tear from the inside of the vagina to the bladder that can result from prolonged obstructed labour. Between 1845 and 1849 he repeatedly performed experimental surgery without anaesthetic on three enslaved women named Anarcha, Betsy and Lucy. It is unverifiable if the women gave their medical consent to Sims' surgical experiments, as consent from their enslavers, who had a strong financial interest in their recovery, was the only legal requirement of the time.</p> <p>Despite Sims' involvement in human experimentation on enslaved women, the Sims vaginal speculum and rectal examination position remains named after him in modern gynaecology.</p>	<p>collection. Author of books in the library.</p>	<p>on-slave-women-without-anesthesia-now-his-statues-are-under-attack/</p>
<p>Sir Hans Sloane (1660–1753)</p>	<p>Sloane was personal physician to the governor of Jamaica. His wife Elizabeth was the widow of Fulke Rose, who owned estates and enslaved people in Jamaica. Elizabeth inherited a fortune derived from slavery. Sloane also invested in the Royal African and South Seas companies, which both traded in enslaved people.</p>	<p>RCP president. Entry in obituary series. Sitter in portrait painting and prints in the museum collection, the collection also holds a medal featuring him and various items of historic furniture given by Sloane to the RCP.</p>	<p>https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/perspectives/view/2146650539</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Sloane</p>

Name	Summary	Link to RCP collections	Source
		Some mentions in institutional records in the archive collection. Author of books in the library.	
Richard Smith (d.1843)	Smith practised as a surgeon in Bristol, which was the UK's main port involved in the slave trade in the early 18th century. When slavery was abolished in 1834, compensation was awarded to previous owners of enslaved people, based on the asset lists of their holdings. As a mortgagee of the Mount Alleyne and Prince Ruperts estates in Dominica, Smith and his brother Henry contested claims from Charles Court and Auguste de Buc respectively for the compensation from the estates. The Smith brothers' counterclaims were unsuccessful.	Sitter in a print in the museum collection.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146630591
Matthew John Tierney (1776–1845)	When slavery was abolished in 1834, compensation was awarded to previous owners of enslaved people, based on the asset lists of their holdings. Tierney, along with his wife, brother and sister-in-law made a claim as creditors for the compensation for two estates in St Kitts, Pensez-y-bien and College. The compensation for the Pensez-y-bien Estate which listed 174 enslaved people was £3,259. The compensation for the College Estate which listed 183 enslaved people was £3,200.	RCP fellow. Entry in obituary series.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146644385
Benjamin Travers (1783–1858)	Travers was a surgeon working primarily in London, including 5 years as surgeon for the East India Company's warehouses and bridgade, from 1809 to 1814. Following the abolition of slavery in British colonies, Travers was	Sitter in a print in the museum collection. Author of books in the library.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/773

Name	Summary	Link to RCP collections	Source
	awarded part of the £2,482 16s 2d compensation for the enslaved people on the Marble Hill Estate on Antigua, almost certainly as a trustee of his sister Caroline Ottley (née Travers).		
Thomas Trotter (1760–1832)	Trotter was a Scottish naval surgeon who became a critic of the slave trade after serving as the surgeon aboard a Guineaman (slaving ship) engaged in the transportation of enslaved people from Africa to the Caribbean.	Sitter in a print in the museum collection. Author of books in the library.	https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/27763
Henry Richard Vassall Fox	Vassall-Fox adopted the name Vassall in 1800 to safeguard his children's rights to the profits from two estates in Westmoreland, Jamaica, which had come into the family through his marriage to Elizabeth Webster. In the last list of assets for the Friendship and Sweet River Penn estates before the abolition of slavery, 401 enslaved people were listed. When slavery was abolished in 1834, compensation was awarded to previous owners of enslaved people, based on the asset lists of their holdings. Lord Holland was awarded £7,211 compensation in 1835 as part-owner of the estates.	Personal papers in the archive collection.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/46368
Joseph Warner (1717–1801)	Owned estates and enslaved people.	Sitter in a print in the museum collection. Author of a book in the library.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146645219
James Richard White Vose	Vose's father, James Vose, inherited an estate in Jamaica from his wife's uncle, James White. The last list of assets before the abolition of slavery included 126 enslaved people. When slavery was abolished in 1834,	RCP fellow. Entry in obituary series.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/14167

Name	Summary	Link to RCP collections	Source
	compensation was awarded to previous owners of enslaved people, based on the asset lists of their holdings. The sum of £2,293 was awarded as compensation to James Vose in 1835.		
John Wigan (1694–1739)	Wigan travelled to Jamaica in 1738 as companion and physician to Edward Trelawny and spent the rest of his life there. He married Mary, the daughter and widow of owners of estates and enslaved people. When John died the probate value of his holdings was £970. This included one enslaved boy at a value of £35.	RCP fellow. Entry in obituary series. Author of books in the library.	https://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/person/view/2146664995

Information about the collection items and individuals referenced above can be found in the following places:

- > Library catalogue
- > Archive and museum catalogue
- > Inspiring Physicians obituary series
- > History website

Project scope

It is often difficult to pull out information about historic collections or individuals that have not previously been written widely about. In summer 2020 a scoping exercise into colonial history within the RCP historic collections set criteria for the depth to which links to enslavement would be investigated. These criteria were set to allow productive work to be completed within the resources available. Without the resources for in-depth original research, the Archive, Heritage Library and Museum services team is currently reliant on the UCL research project and accompanying website [Legacies of British Slave-ownership](#) for information on individuals' links to enslavement, which utilises records of compensation claims following the abolition of slavery. As such, the work carried out here is not a comprehensive investigation into everyone with links to the RCP collections.

Two criteria were determined to shape the investigations:

- > Collections that depict or have strong links to an individual (eg donor, author) would be flagged as having links to slavery if the individual or their direct family members (defined as direct family members through birth, marriage or inheritance) featured on the UCL *Legacies* site.
- > Individuals active primarily post-1900 or pre-1640 were not investigated for links to the transatlantic slave trade. Britain was active in the transatlantic slave trade during the 17th–19th centuries, and the 1640s is considered the start of British dominance in the transatlantic slave trade. Although family links are still possible and the impact of slavery continues to be felt to this day, the date range above was selected as being far enough removed from dates of the active trade to make it unlikely that links with individuals fitting the first criteria would be found, within current resourcing for research.

Other individuals with an individual or direct family connection to the transatlantic slave trade, and who do not feature on the UCL *Legacies* site, may be added from other sources as appropriate, as may individuals who were enslaved if they feature within the collections. If we receive enquiries highlighting links to slavery in the collections that have not previously been identified, these will be dealt with in the same way that any other factual amendments would be, ie and relevant records or information will be updated based on evidence. You can contact us on history@rcp.ac.uk.

See the 'Our values' page [here](#) for more information about what how we are using the information contained in this document and about the wider project.